

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 06917 270803Z

12

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ISO-00 EB-05 DRC-01 RSC-01 /013 W

----- 013545

R 261524Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5209

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, BEXP, NI

SUBJ: TELECOMMUNICATIONS: RIVERS STATE TV/RADIO PROJECT

REF: STATE 145405 AND PREVIOUS

1. REGRET DELAY RESPONDING REFTEL. HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO REACH RIVERS STATE BY PHONE, AND WAS ONLY THROUGH FORTUITIOUS MEETING IN LAGOS WITH RIVERS STATE TV GEN. MGR. OKARA THAT US HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN LATEST STATUS OF TV/RADIO PROJECT.

2. ACCORDING TO OKARA, CONTRACT HAS DEFINITELY BEEN SIGNED WITH THOMPSON-CSF FOR SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF EQUIPMENT, AND NO REPEAT NO ROLE IS SEEN AT THIS TIME FOR EITHER PAGE EUROPA OR TELCOM, INC. ABOVE IN CONFLICT WITH PAGE EUROPA'S UNDERSTANDING ON JUNE 19 (LAGOS 5513), BUT OKARA LEAVES NO ROOM FOR DOUBT ON THIS POINT, AND STATES THAT PAGE EUROPA HAS BEEN SO INFORMED IN MEETING WITHIN PAST 2-3 WEEKS.

3. BEGIN FYI. THIS RAISES POSSIBILITY OF PAGE LITIGATION AGAINST RIVERS STATE. IN JUNE 19 CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBASSY, PAGE V-P JACK EDENS INDICATED BELIEF THAT THERE WAS STRONG LEGAL CASE AGAINST RIVERS STATE FOR BREACH OF CONTRACT, AND GAVE IMPRESSION THAT PAGE WAS PREPARED TO PURSUE THAT COURSE AS LAST RESORT. WE HAVE NO INDICATION OF PAGE'S LATEST THINKING, BUT UNDERSTAND MARIO CAIAFA OF PAGE EUROPA ARRIVING IN LAGOS SOMETIME IN NEXT FEW DAYS, AND MAY HAVE CLEARER PICTURE THE. END FYI.

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4. OKARA CONFIRMS INFO OBTAINED EARLIER (LAGOS 4214) THAT

CONTRACT WITH THOMPSON-CSG BACKED BY FRENCH GOVERNMENT LOAN PACKAGE. TERMS OFFERED -- SEVEN PERCENT INTEREST, ACCRUING FROM PROJECT COMPLETION DATE, AND SEVEN YEARS TO PAY -- SUBSTANTIALLY BETTER THAN THOSE PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED THROUGH COMMERCIAL BANKING CHANNELS. FURTHERMORE, IN CONTRAST TO EARLIER EXIMBANK LOAN PROPOSAL, NO FMG GUARANTEE REQUIRED.

5. HOWEVER, RIVERS STATE ALSO APPEARS TO BE ON ROAD TO OBTAINING FMG STAMP OF APPROVAL FOR PROJECT. OKARA REPORTEDLY HAS " VERBAL AGREEMENT" FROM MINFIN FOR \$1.3 MILLION IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE AVAILABILITY TO COVER INITIAL COSTS FOR EQUIPMENT FROM THOMPSON-CSF, AND STEPS ARE ALLEGEDLY BEING TAKEN TO INCLUDE PROJECT IN FMG-APPROVED 1975-90 DEVELOPMENT PLAN. ASSUMING NO FURTHER PROBLEMS, RIVERS STATE NOW HOPES TO HAVE TV IN OPERATION BY 1975, RADIO 1977.
REINHARDT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LITIGATION, RADIO STATIONS, TELEVISION STATIONS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), CONTRACTS
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Draft Date: 26 JUL 1974
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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